

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03111 191145Z
ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 CTME-00 PRS-00 SS-15
USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 /102 W

-----100987 191155Z /23S

Z 191138Z FEB 78 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6005
AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH
AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03111

E.O. LL652: GDS
TAGS: PINS
SUBJECT: HIJACKED AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) DJIBOUTI 203; (B) STATE 44088

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND FROM WIRE SERVICE THAT HIJACKED
AIRCRAFT HAS LEFT DJIBOUTI, FOLLOWING IS OUR RESPONSE TO
QUESTION RAISED BY REFTEL A.

2. GSG-9, THE GERMAN UNIT WHICH PERFORMED THE MOGADISCIO
RESCUE OPERATION, COULD TAKE OFF WITHIN ONE HOUR OF AN
ORDER TO DO SO. WE ESTIMATE A 5-6 HOUR FLIGHT TO
DJIBOUTI, PLUS PROBABLE REFUELING STOP EN ROUTE.

3. THE POLITICAL DECISION TO EMPLOY GSG-9 WOULD BE
MORE DIFFICULT. IT WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE
CHANCELLOR AND HIS CABINET AND PROBABLY BY THE OPPOSITION
LEADERSHIP. WHILE THE GERMANS IF ASKED MIGHT OFFER
BEHIND-THE-SCENES ADVICE, OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THERE IS
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ALMOST NO CHANCE THAT THEY WOULD AGREE TO ACT AS PRINCIPALS
IN ANY RESCUE OPERATION.

4. IN OUR VIEW THE FRG WOULD HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE CAST
IN THE ROLE OF POLICEMAN IN A CASE WHERE THERE ARE NO
DIRECT GERMAN INTERESTS INVOLVED. ASIDE FROM QUESTIONS
OF WORLD IMAGE, THE PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED WOULD BE

TROUBLESOME. MOREOVER, THE RISK THAT THE OPERATION
MIGHT FAIL AND THUS TARNISH THE PRESENT IMAGE OF GSG-9
(THUS LESSENING ITS DETERRENT VALUE) IS ONE THAT WOULD NOT
BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 051961d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIJACKED AIRCRAFT
TAGS: PINS
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
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20 Mar 2014
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